

T E N B U R Y
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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A N N U A L

R E P O R T

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- and -

SANITARY INSPECTOR

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TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT

<u>Names of Parishes</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
Bayton	M. Wyer
Bockleton	Miss Prescott
Eastham	K.D. Briggs
Hanley	E. Kerby
Knighton on Teme	J. Batley
	Rev. A.P. Randle
Kyre	H. Powell
Lindridge	G. Ballard
	C.H.C. Patridge
Manble	Mrs. F.K. Thomas
Pensax	H.J. Neath
Rochford	W.G. Maund (Chairman)
Stanford with Orleton	H. Morris
Stockton	Capt. A. Astley Jones
Stoke Bliss	H. Cooper
Tenbury	Rev. J.A. Chesterton
	C. Haywood. H. JONES
	M.G. Rollo (Vice-Chairman)
	W. Middleton

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health	George John Eady, L.M.S.S.A. Lond.
Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector & Waterworks Engineer	J.E. Parkinson, Cert. S.I.B. Assoc. Royal Sanitary Institute.

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Tenbury Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1944.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	31,250
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population,	
mid 1944	5,520
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1944	1,672
Rateable Value	£18,030
Sum represented by a Penny rate	£78/4/2

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District comprises fourteen parishes, and is entirely rural in character except for the market town of Tenbury. Agriculture, including fruit and hop growing, is the chief industry and provides work for the majority of the adult male population.

A varying number of men are employed at a number of small coal pits on the borders of the area. One pit has now been closed.

During the Autumn months the population is increased by fruit and hop pickers, mostly women and children, who are brought into the district and accommodated in special quarters on the farms.

There are many small holdings in the area, and the amount of unemployment varies very little.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	42	36	78
Illegitimate	4	4	8
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			13.7
Birth Rate for 1943			15.2
Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1944			17.6
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	1	0	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)			44.4
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) births, 1943			32.2
<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	35	33	68
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			12.3
Death Rate for England and Wales, 1943			16.5
<u>DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES</u>			
Puerperal Sepsis		0	
Other Puerperal Causes		0	
<u>DEATH RATE of INFANTS under one year of age:</u>			
All Infants per 1,000 live births			23.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			25.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			0

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 46 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Death from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	0

Total Deaths registered were 68 as against 90 in 1943.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Typhoid Fever, etc.	0	0
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0
6. Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	1
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	0
8. Syphilitic Diseases	0	0
9. Influenza	0	1
10. Measles	0	0
11. Acute Polio-myelitis and P-encephalitis	0	0
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis	0	0
13. Cancer of the Mouth, Oesoph (M), Uterus (F)	0	0
14. Cancer of the Stomach and Duodenum	1	0
15. Cancer of the Breast	0	1

Causes of Death (Contd.)

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
16. Cancer of all other sites	5	3
17. Diabetes	0	0
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	5	2
19. Heart Disease	8	15
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	0	1
21. Bronchitis	3	1
22. Pneumonia	0	2
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1
24. Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum	2	0
25. Diarrhoea under two years	0	0
26. Appendicitis	0	0
27. Other Digestive Diseases	3	1
28. Nephritis	2	1
29. Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
30. Other Maternal Causes	0	0
31. Premature Birth	0	0
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, etc.	1	0
33. Suicide	0	0
34. Road Traffic Accidents	0	0
35. Other Violent Causes	1	2
36. All other Causes	0	2
	—	—
Total	35	33
	—	—

The Average Age at Death was 65.7

Males 61.4 years. Females 70.4

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

During the year I have received notifications of the following cases :-

Scarlet Fever	11
Whooping Cough	27
Diphtheria	3
Measles	2
Acute Pneumonia	0

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

In carrying out my duties as Medical Officer of Health of the area I have the assistance and co-operation of Mr. J.E. Parkinson, who has been Sanitary Inspector of the area since May, 1932, and who is also Water Engineer for the area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The County Council Laboratory at Worcester is available for the bacteriological and chemical examination of pathological specimens and samples of water, is freely used, and is of great value to the district.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

An Ambulance available for the district is provided by a Voluntary Committee under the chairmanship of Councillor K.D. Briggs, C.C., with Mr. H.S. Lett as Honorary Secretary.

NURSING IN THE HOME

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also act as Midwives and carry out the duties of Health Visitors.

Two of these Nurses live at the Tenbury Hospital, the other two residing in outlying parishes, and their work is so apportioned as to cover the entire area.

There are also two other practising Midwives in the area.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

There is a Voluntary Infant Welfare Centre which is held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Parish Hall, Tenbury from 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

As Tuesday is Market Day in Tenbury, this enables mothers from the villages and farms around to avail themselves of the adequate 'Bus and Rail services on those days and of transport by other vehicles driven in to the market.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Immunisation of children against Diphtheria has been carefully explained to parents throughout the area and constantly brought forward and has been very well accepted.

At the close of the year, 84.7 per cent. of children under five years of age and 99 per cent. of the children between five years of age and fifteen years had been immunised.

HOSPITALS

The Tenbury Hospital is quite close to the town, and though, being on the other side of the river, it is actually in Burford, Salop, it is managed and supported chiefly by the town and district of Tenbury.

The Hospital has fifteen beds for medical and surgical cases, and one cot, and is very well equipped.

For Infectious Diseases the Worcester Isolation Hospital is used.

The Public Assistance Hospital at Kidderminster is also available, and for Maternity cases the County Council provides accommodation in three Maternity Hospitals.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944

<u>Age Period</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
15		1						
25					1		1	
35								
45		1			2			
55								
65								
	0	2	0	0	3	0	1	0

There were only two notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, both females, both adults, and there were four deaths, three males and one female.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

There were on the Register at the end of the year the following cases of Tuberculosis :-

<u>PULMONARY</u>		<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>	
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
6	8	6	5

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER

The town of Tenbury is supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of this supply is situated at Clee Hill, the water being drawn from the Millstone Grit formations there.

A connection between the Birmingham water conduit from Elan Valley and the Tenbury intake chamber gives a supplementary supply. The effects of increase or decrease in the rate of intake from Tenbury's source can be rectified by the turn of a valve on the supplementary supply connection.

As regards the rural parts of the district, in which there is not a sizeable village, although there are a few private piped supplies, generally the mode of supply may be said to be by Wells and Springs.

The Wells and Springs have been affected in varying degrees by the long drought. Even so, there have not been many complaints regarding shortage of water. A few properties in the rural parts of the district were assisted by having water carried out to them.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The increasing number of water-closets in Tenbury is making the provision of outfall works for the treatment of the sewage before it enters the stream a matter of importance.

A change of the system from pail-closets to the water carriage system is now a pressing matter.

3. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Appended to this Report is a classified statement of the number of houses visited, the defects and nuisances discovered, and the action taken and result of action in regard to these by the Sanitary Inspector.

One hundred and seventy-nine houses were visited under the Public Health Acts during the year. Seventy-six informal Notices and four formal Notices were served, and with the exception of three, were complied with. A large amount of very useful Sanitary work was carried out and improvements to water supplies secured at a number of premises.

HOP PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION

Many visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspector and myself to the quarters provided for Hop Pickers, both before and during the hop picking season.

The quarters were on the whole quite satisfactory, and the Pickers were well cared for. An important factor contributing to this is the fact that in all cases the quarters provided for the Hop Pickers are situated close to the homes of the Hop Growers.

The general health of the Hop Pickers and of their children was fairly good this year. Two cases of Scarlet Fever occurred among the children, and these children were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

SCHOOLS

There were twenty-seven cases of Whooping Cough and two cases of Measles during the year. One school was closed from January 17th to February 11th on account of Whooping Cough.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES - TENBURY WATERWORKS

During the year the rate of intake from the source at Studley has remained below normal, and it has been necessary to draw continuously a supplementary supply from the Birmingham Conduit, with which there is installed a permanent connection.

During the year approximately 1,115 yards of water mains in the township of Tenbury were scraped :- Teme Street and Market Street, 482 yards; Berrington Road, 633. Three old valves were taken out and replaced.

If the consumption rate in Tenbury should at all increase, it may be necessary to make some alteration to the gravity main which carries the water from the source to the reservoir. The main is somewhat restricted in its carrying capacity because a part of its length is laid in a very undulating track, and that it is not wholly within the hydraulic gradient. A diversion of a portion of the main through lower contours and to a less uneven grade, which is possible, would increase the velocity of the flow and improve the rate of supply to the reservoir.

The supply at Kyrewood and Oldwood is not a good one, particularly Oldwood. These districts are at high levels in the area of supply and have felt the effects of an increased consumption rate at lower levels. In the case of Kyrewood, there are two short lengths of 3" main, known to be partially choked by encrustation, but which are so laid as to be incapable of being scraped. One length is at Kyre Bridge, where the main is constructed by means of

several sharp bends to pass under the bed of the brook, and the other length is between Palmer's Field and the top of Kyrewood Bank. Diversions in these cases would no doubt improve the flow to Kyrewood.

As regards Oldwood, some improvement could be gained by linking the Oldwood branch with the 3" main in Berrington Road by way of Bog Lane, a distance of 170 yards.

Ten samples of the Tenbury town water were sent for chemical and bacteriological examination during the year, and nine were found to be of good quality.

The unsatisfactory sample was obtained from a tap at two isolated cottages which was supplied from the main through a galvanized iron service pipe 350 yards in length. The water had a metallic flavour. When first drawn it was clear and sparkling, but in a few hours became a greenish-yellow. On examination it was found that the water's action upon the galvanized iron piping was giving a zinc-content to the water of 1.5 parts per 100,000 and an iron-content of 0.6 parts per 100,000. The water was useless for drinking or for laundry work.

Wrought iron piping, whether galvanized or not, is unsuitable for use in connection with the Tenbury water supply.

904 visits were made in connection with the Tenbury Water Supply, which includes the night inspections and soundings made for the detection of waste and leakage.

The results of the examination of a sample of Tenbury town water taken in April and another sample taken in September, are as follows :-

ANALYSIS - TENBURY TOWN WATER - APRIL, 1944

PHYSICAL CHARACTERS. Very slightly opalescent.
 ODOUR ... None
 DEPOSIT ... None pH. 6.4

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

(Results expressed in parts
per 100,000)

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100° C.)	...	None
Solids in solution (Dried at 100° C.)	...	10
" " " After Ignition	...	9
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	2.3
Hardness - Permanent	...	4.3
" - Temporary	...	2.2
" - Total	...	6.5
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	0.0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.0006
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	None
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	...	None
Toxic Metals	...	None detected

Note: To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon,
 multiply by 0.7.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar	
(a) In two days at 37° C.	6 per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22° C.	40 " " "
Coli-aerogenes (presumptive coli) count	Nil per 100 "
Streptococci	Absent

This sample is fit for drinking.

ANALYSIS - TENBURY TOWN WATER - SEPTEMBER, 1944

PHYSICAL CHARACTERS - Clear.
 ODOUR ... - None
 DEPOSIT ... - Slight, brown.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

(Results expressed in parts
 per 100,000)

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100° C.)	...	Trace
Solids in Solution (Dried at 100° C.)	...	8
" " " After Ignition	...	7
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	2.3
Hardness - Permanent	...	3.8
" - Temporary	...	0.4
" - Total	...	4.2
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	0.0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.004
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	...	0.03
Toxic Metals	...	None detected

Note: To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon,
 multiply by 0.7

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar			
(a) In two days at 37° C.	...	6	per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22° C.	...	64	" " "
Coli-aerogenes (presumptive coli) count	...	3	" 100 " x
Streptococci	...	Absent	

x non-faecal type

The sample is fit for drinking.

OTHER WATER SUPPLIES

Twenty-eight samples of water from private Wells and Springs were chemically and bacteriologically examined during the year, 16 of which were found to be defective in quality. In these cases appropriate action was taken. Several visits were made to farms in connection with proposed Grant-aid Schemes.

Two new Wells were sunk in the district.

HOUSING. COUNCIL HOUSES

The Council have now 134 occupied houses in their district. During the year, the work of erecting 12 cottages under the new scheme for housing agricultural workers was completed - six cottages in the parish of Kyre, four in the parish of Hanley and two in Bayton. The cottages are of the parlour type and semi-detached. Whilst the water supply to the cottages at Kyre and Hanley will, for the time being, be from Wells, those at Bayton have a piped supply from the private main which supplies Bayton Village. The reservoir in connection with this supply has been enlarged, to increase the capacity by 5,000 gallons.

HOUSING. PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Two Grant-aided agricultural workers' cottages were erected in the parish of Lindridge during the year

OTHER NEW BUILDINGS

Plans for Sculleries for use in connection with school meals at the following were approved :- Bayton and Bockleton Schools.

A Dining Room for Tenbury Schools was erected during the year.

HOUSING. (OVERCROWDING)

Very little could be done in connection with cases of overcrowding owing to the difficult housing conditions created by the War and the restrictions placed upon new building work and reconditioning.

DANGEROUS STRUCTURES (PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936).

Six dangerous structures were dealt with during the year.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS

One case of pollution of streams by effluents produced by mining operations was dealt with.

VERMINOUS & DIRTY PREMISES

Nine cases were dealt with under this heading during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

Thirty-six visits were made in connection with rat infestations on premises other than agricultural premises. In this district, where regular full-time, long-period employment for rat destruction cannot be offered, and where casual labour is as yet difficult, if not impossible to find, progress in the destruction of rats is not so good as desired.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Thirty-eight visits were made in connection with the control of infectious diseases and sixteen houses were disinfected. Six cases of Scabies were dealt with.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTIONS

Collections of night-soil from a far too large number of pail-closets in the town of Tenbury are made in the early mornings, and during the year over 7,000 pails were emptied.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

House refuse collections were carried out in two parishes of the district, i.e., Tenbury and Lindridge. In Tenbury town, collections are made on three days of each week, and in Oldwood district of Tenbury once every month. In Lindridge the collections are made quarterly. In the parish of Bayton, villagers deposit their house refuse on a disused Colliery site. The site is controlled by the District Council.

Some consideration has been given to the question regarding refuse collections in other parishes in the district.

CONVERSION OF EARTH-CLOSETS TO WATER CLOSETS (PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Sec. 47 (4)).

During the year an application to the Council for a Grant towards the expenses incurred in connection with the conversion of four earth-closets into water-closets was approved.

$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \right) = - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{d\rho}{dt}$

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Twenty visits of inspection to factories were made. The defects dealt with were as follows :-

Water Closets - 5
Water Supply - 4
Cleanliness - 3

PARTICULARS OF OTHER SANITARY MATTERS DEALT WITH

Defects to Sewers remedied	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of Drains laid or re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	23
Number Trapped, Ventilated and Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	37
Number of obstructed Drains dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	37
Number of House Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	28
Number of defective W.C's remedied	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of additional W.C's put in	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of defective Earth-Closets remedied	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dangerous Wells dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	5
Offensive Accumulations dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	5
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisance arising from Dampness	2
Other Nuisances dealt with	6
Other visits	206

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FOOD

MILK

There were in the district 103 producers, there being 5 new registrations during the year. The number of small producers is rather high and the district is not a large dairying one. A number of defects to structures, lighting and ventilation of cowsheds and to surroundings were dealt with.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

Except for emergency slaughter, the six slaughter-houses in the district were not used. Since early in the War, meat has been supplied from a Central Abattoir outside the district.

Butchers' premises were regularly inspected, as also were vans which conveyed the meat into the district.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

During the year 538 lbs. of foodstuffs were found unfit for consumption and were destroyed.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J.E. PARKINSON,

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor,

Waterworks Engineer.

